

**Assault of the Paramours: the Enlightenment's Love Affair with Classical Greek Writers;
*Dialogues of Plato: Laws III: the Greatest & Worst Ignorance***

10. Plato was big on discerning truth through reason, or rationalism. Following the Reformation the intellectuals of Europe rejected Christianity as a source of problem-solving and turned to reason instead. Their movement became known as the Enlightenment and its sympathizers became enraptured with Greek philosophers such as Plato.

Kohl, Herbert. *From Archetype to Zeitgeist*. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1992), 65:

The Enlightenment is an intellectual and philosophical movement that developed in eighteenth-century Europe and is characterized by its belief that reason, and not tradition, can solve all of the problems of humanity.

Enlightenment thinkers rejected the idea that religion can be a source of truth, and believed instead that the application of reason to the evidence of the senses is the sole source of the truth.

Enlightenment thinkers replaced ideas of divine authority with ideas of universal human rights and the natural rights of all individuals.

11. The philosophical foundations of Western culture borrow heavily from the inquisitional didactics of Socrates and the writings of Plato and Aristotle. From these and other sources, Progressive Rationalism has emerged as the religion of the twenty-first century.
12. Nevertheless, because Plato was God-conscious, brilliant, and rational, he was able to discern the need for mankind to become harmonious with God:

Plato. *The Dialogues of Plato: Laws III*. Trans. Jowett. In *Great Book of the Western World*, 7:670:

[689] The greatest ignorance is when a man hates that which he nevertheless thinks to be good and noble, and loves and embraces that which he knows to be unrighteous and evil [To have learned the principle of separation from those with whom you have harmony but fail to apply it to life and circumstances.]. This disagreement between the sense of pleasure [Passions & desires motivated by the lust patterns.] and the judgment of reason in the soul [Doctrinal principles in the *kardia*.] is, in my opinion, the worst ignorance.

And when the soul is opposed to knowledge [doctrine], or reason [common sense], which are her natural lords, *that* I call folly, just as in the state, when the multitude refuses to obey their rulers and the laws; or, again, in the individual, when fair reasonings have their habitation in the soul and yet do no good, but rather the reverse of good [Rejection of divine viewpoint by the believer and of establishment viewpoint by the citizen].